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judiciously planted American oaks or maples in these parks would give to the effect just those touches of color that to an American eye seem lacking to make perfect an autumn afternoon stroll.

There is a large field for the study of autumn foliage in Europe and in this country. Individual peculiarities ought to be studied and trees that can be propagated asexually chosen from the thousands of seedlings in the parks. The physiological conditions which produce these colorations will be most interesting, and the effects of hybridization of highly coloring species may be something phenomenal. With the growing passion for ornamentals this feature cannot fail long to attract serious attention, and it would be an easy thing to carry on some international experiments, introducing into Europe quantities of our gorgeously coloring species.—DAVID G. FAIRCHILD, *Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

A NEW HELIOTROPIUM.

THE cosmopolitan *Heliotropium curassavicum* is supposed to be sufficiently well known, and the idea that the name may at present cover more than one species does not seem to be entertained. However, when I saw the plant passing as *H. curassavicum* in southern California, last summer, I was strongly impressed with the idea that it was quite distinct from that of southern New Mexico (Mesilla valley) and northern Mexico (Juarez in Chihuahua), which had been familiar to me for some years past. The latter plant is lower and less robust, with white flowers, which are visited at Juarez by a peculiar bee of the genus Perdita, a strong indication that the plant is really a native of the region.

The Californian plant I described from fresh material gathered at San Pedro in July, as follows: Spreading, about 20^{cm} high, robust, main stems 6^{mm} in diameter, bluish-green; leaves spatulate, the largest about 53^{mm} long and 20 broad; average leaves 27^{mm} long and 9 broad; larger leaves about 1^{mm} thick, smaller 0.5^{mm}. Flowers arranged as in *H. curassavicum;* flowering spikes usually in threes, about 25^{mm} long, elongating fruit to 60^{mm} or more; flowers 7^{mm} diameter, varying in the same spike from 5 to 6-lobed corolla; corolla white, throat deep purple or yellow (both colors on same spike); calyx-lobes lanceolate, equaling the tube of the corolla; corolla more or less purple outside, so that the buds appear purple.

The yellow-eyed flowers are the freshest; probably they later become purple-eyed. This plant goes south along the seacoast, at least to San Diego county. I consulted a number of floras of different parts of the world, and found that the flower of *H. curassavicum* was almost universally considered to be white. Unfortunately, in drying the plant turns black, and I have never been able to prepare really satisfactory herbarium specimens. It may be on account of this difficulty that the several species (if such there are) have not been discriminated. If botanists resident where presumed *H. curassavicum* grows will carefully note the characters of the living plants, perhaps we may in time reach the solution of the matter.

Since writing the above note I have obtained fresh material of the New Mexico species at Albuquerque, still in flower December 3, 1901. Renewed comparisons make it evident that this inland form requires a distinctive name, as follows:

Heliotropium xerophilum, n. sp.— Flowers 3.5^{mm} in diameter; corolla 5-lobed, white (not turning violet), tinged with yellow within; lobes small, rounded; flowering spikes only about 20^{mm} long; calyx lobes narrow, pointed; fruit globular, 4-lobed, with distinct sutures, lobes rounded; leaves obtuse-lanceolate, about 30^{mm} long and 7 broad.—T. D. A. COCKERELL, *East Las Vegas, New Mexico.*